

end the use of steel jaw leghold traps in the United States. The majority of Americans believe this measure is long overdue. I hope this House will debate and pass it as soon as possible.

Steel jaw leghold traps slam with bone-crushing force upon their victims. These devices are completely nonselective. They threaten small children, cherished pets, and endangered species. Less cruel trapping alternatives exist for the 2,100 Americans that earn their living by hunting or trapping.

A recent survey demonstrated that three out of four Americans believe the trap should be prohibited. This past November, Colorado and Massachusetts joined New Jersey, Florida, and Rhode Island in outlawing the use of these traps; several other States are considering similar laws. The American people want the traps outlawed now. The best way to accomplish that is by passing my legislation.

Let me add, Mr. Speaker, that it's not just the American people that oppose the use of these traps. Eighty-eight nations have already banned the use of these inhumane traps. The belief in this ban is so strong in Europe that the European Parliament adopted a law prohibiting the importation of furs from nations that continue to use these devices. When this law is implemented, the United States will no longer be able to export furs to Europe—unless we pass this bill.

Mr. Speaker, in the 104th Congress, more than 90 Members cosponsored H.R. 1404, which is nearly identical to the bill Congressman SHAYS and I are introducing today. As news of this legislation spreads, I expect we will gain even more congressional support.

I hope we can hold hearings on the issue quickly, and then bring this bill to the floor. I invite all of my colleagues to join me in pushing for the elimination of these cruel and unnecessary traps once and for all.

REPORT FROM INDIANA—IMPACT YOUTH CENTER

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my Report From Indiana. All across Indiana, my wife Ruthie and I have met so many wonderful, kind and caring people. These are people who strive day and night to make a difference. In my book, these individuals are Hoosier Heros. Heros in every sense of the word, because of their commitment to others.

I would like to share with you a story from Edinburg, IN, a little town in Johnson County, about true commitment driven by faith. A young couple, whose devotion to God and the community, have inspired them to open a place for young people to come develop a better relationship with Christ. Mike and Tammy Tetrick started the IMPACT youth program, which stands for Informing Many People About Christ.

Their mission began 2 years ago where they held their first meeting in their living room with 20 children. As the meetings progressed so did the number of young people who came to the Tetrick's door in hope of finding their faith. They knew that they could no longer hold everyone and had to find a place where

they could fit all those who were eager about getting to know Christ. So, with the help of the community, the Tetricks were able to purchase a local church and converted it into the IMPACT Youth Center.

Today, over 150 young people join Mike and Tammy in celebration. The IMPACT center has had a tremendous response. At their meetings, local pastors like pastor Larry McCormick, of the First Assembly of God Church, come to teach these young men and women. Afterward, the center provides a place where young people can come together. Some join together for further prayer. Others enjoy the video games. Games donated by Dwayne Mottia of Mottia Amusements.

The youth center provides a positive outlet for these youngsters. The IMPACT youth center has effected these young people in an extraordinary way. Since the center has opened the enthusiasm of the community has grown. Just last week, the young men and women took the initiative to rid themselves of cigarettes, pornographic magazines, and CD's with explicit language. These young Hoosiers had decided they had grasped onto something more meaningful in their life.

Today I recognize those involved with the IMPACT youth center for their celestial effect on the community. The IMPACT center has also strived at helping local organizations. The young members raised a money to purchase gifts for those in the Franklin Juvenile Center. They are currently in the process of collecting a 1,000 pounds of food for the victims of the floods in southern Indiana. This type of commitment is not only commendable but truly amazing.

These are the lessons we must all strive to teach our young people; so that they will have the values necessary to become good citizens and tomorrow's leaders.

The IMPACT youth center also organized a band consisting of Mike Tetrick, Gobel Brockman, James Burton, Allen Burton, Tim Burton, Tammy Tetrick, and Jim and Tracy Burton. This band enthusiastically plays at drug centers, mission and juvenile centers throughout the surrounding community. Their faith and effort give others hope. It gives us all hope.

So today I commend each and everyone involved in with the IMPACT youth center and encourage them to continue with their mission. They truly are Hoosier Hero's.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes my report from the Second District of Indiana.

Names to be entered into the RECORD: Pastor Jamie Vance, Pastor Mike Whited, Pastor Tim Dillingham, Youth Pastor Nick Whited, Youth Pastor Rodney Burton, Pastor Byron Fritz, Youth Pastor Ron Strieval, and Youth Pastor Tim Barrett.

H.R. 1143

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced a private bill on behalf of Ms. Mary Mertz, a constituent and employee of the U.S. State Department. In 1988, Ms. Mertz received a reimbursement check for moving expenses, as she had just transferred to a new

foreign post. Ms. Mertz endorsed the check for deposit only and enclosed it in a diplomatic pouch for deposit in her credit union in the United States.

In nearly any other circumstance, this would be the end of the story. In this case, the diplomatic pouch arrived at its destination in the United States, but Ms. Mertz's check was no longer in the pouch. It remains unknown to this day how the pouch was tampered with, or how the check was removed. Ms. Mertz rightfully expected the pouch to be a safe means of depositing her payment to her bank.

After some time the check was traced, for if it had been merely lost it could have been canceled and replaced. It turns out the check was falsely deposited in a foreign bank, and by the time this was discovered the bank had gone out of business with no successor named for its debt. There was no recourse against this foreign institution, no recourse against the State Department for losing the check, no recourse against the Treasury which had paid once, albeit incorrectly, on that check. After years of research and contact with her representatives in Congress, it is clear there is no recourse under current law for Ms. Mertz. It is equally clear that the last known location of the check was in U.S. Government possession, and no explanation has been offered as to how this check ended up in the hands of the criminals who illegally deposited it in a foreign institution.

Since all other avenues of recourse have been attempted and my constituent has not recovered her funds, I introduced this legislation for relief to address these issues and allow Ms. Mertz to receive the reimbursement she is due.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW STEVENS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 21, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Andrew Stevens, a dear friend, a fellow Californian, and a prominent businessman and civic leader. Andrew was presented the Golden Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary by the Hungarian Consul General in Los Angeles, Mr. Imre Helyes, at a recent ceremony in Los Angeles.

In his letter informing me that Andrew Stevens would be honored, Mr. Helyes explained why the decision was made to grant this award. In particular, the Hungarian Government wanted to recognize Andrew's courageous actions during the Holocaust:

In spite of his youth, Mr. Stevens' courage and bravery drove him enthusiastically to become a "rebel with a cause." He took part in a number of broad-ranging, life-saving activities in Budapest under the masterful guidance of the famous and heroic Swedish Diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg. Without concern for his own safety, Mr. Stevens rescued a large number of our persecuted countrymen from almost certain death towards the last period of the Second World War. Fortunately, some of these individuals are still alive and attested to the dangerous feats undertaken by Mr. Stevens.

Mr. Speaker, I most enthusiastically welcome the presentation of this well-deserved